

Mixed fortunes for Clapton

AFTER last week's F.A. Cup triumph over Margate, champions Wycombe Wanderers return to their Rothmans Isthmian League defence tomorrow (Saturday) at Loakes Park. They take on Clapton, a club that has met with mixed fortunes this season.

Last term the Essex side just avoided relegation from Division One but the introduction of a new manager and several new players this season saw them race up the table. Clapton, winning virtually every match at home, reached third place at one time but have since dropped to mid-table.

Their success, however, did not come without troubles. Their penalty points total mounted steadily with their victories and when it had reached 10 (two points past the limit), the League, after issuing the club warnings, decided to take more drastic action. They told Clapton that two points will be deducted from their points total every time a player was booked in the future, once the club had amassed 12 penalty points. Five points would be deducted if one of their players was sent off.

Since then, Clapton have had two more bookings to make their total 12 but recently they have been coming through matches unscathed. Their Press officer Martin McShea said this week that the club had approached the league council in the form of an

appeal and the matter would be discussed at the next council meeting. He stressed that most of the bookings had been given for dissent and hand ball, rather than disruptive play from the team.

HARRIS TAKES OVER

The man who took over as Clapton manager at the start of the season was John Harris, an ex-Millwall and Gillingham player. He came from Leyton and brought with him brothers Bob and Jim Murray, who joined another set of brothers at the club — the Spicers. Tony Wiseman and John Tone joined from Bishop's Stortford while Brendan Hoare signed from Billericay, John Bull from Bromley and Vince O'Kane from Charlton, with whom he played as a 17 year old in the first team.

They joined seasoned campaigners like Stan Spicer and Vince Scarfe and built up a promising team. At home, Clapton has overcome Hendon 1-0, Leytonstone 3-0, Walton 5-0, Hitchin 3-2, Bishop's Stortford 1-0 and Walthamstow but their best home victory was against Dulwich whom they beat 3-2.

It was only recently that they lost their home record when Enfield and then Dagenham both won at the Spotted Dog ground.

Away from home, the Essex club have struggled. They went down to Enfield, Woking, Dagenham, Ilford and Stortford and have won only once, 1-0 at Barking.

Wycombe are likely to field the side that beat Margate but Dave Alexander is pressing for a place in the team and could make an appearance.

Rothmans Isthmian League Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	17	14	1	2	34	12	43
Ilford	18	12	2	4	45	25	38
Wycombe	16	9	5	2	25	13	32
L'head	14	9	2	3	33	15	29
Sutton	15	9	1	5	28	17	28
Bishop's	17	9	1	7	27	23	28
Dulwich	17	8	3	6	27	22	27
Dag'ham	10	8	1	1	25	8	25
Tooting	11	8	0	3	17	11	24
Barking	17	7	3	7	29	23	24
Clapton	16	8	0	8	26	29	24
W'stow	16	6	4	6	26	24	22
Hendon	19	6	4	9	23	31	22
Kingston	16	6	1	9	15	26	19
Woking	15	4	4	7	22	28	16
Slough	16	4	4	8	19	25	16
Oxford	15	5	1	9	19	28	16
Hayes	16	3	4	9	17	30	13
Hitchin	12	3	2	7	18	24	11
L'stone	13	3	2	8	11	19	11
Walton	17	3	1	13	15	45	10
Bromley	17	3	0	14	12	35	9